

Happy New Year!

Numismagram Newsletter #113 (1/2024)



Hopefully your festive season was an enjoyable one, and possibly even an extended one if vacation allowed for such relaxation or time away. With the ball having dropped in New York City (*or whatever may have dropped more local to you*) not yet 36 hours ago, the new year is still very fresh and full of promise. Such annual celebrations for the arrival of the next year are certainly nothing new, and are absolutely cause for celebration in medallic art as well. A perfect example is the first item in this first edition of 2024's uploads...



This medal from 1700 was issued in the German city of Nürnberg, and conveyed very similar sentiments—*albeit a bit creepy*. Featuring an old man eating a child, this medal actually parallels the ancient mythology of the Titan Kronos, who ate his children in order to prevent his fate of being deposed by said children. Long story short, it didn't work, thanks to some scheming by his wife and mother. In any event, Kronos in some aspects would eventually fuse with the personification of Chronos, or Time. He would generally gain wings (since time “flies”) and a scythe (important in harvesting—*another temporal standard*), and sometimes also an hourglass. This is essentially whence the concept of Father Time emanates. Being accompanied by a young child or even a baby can be seen as the “old” year passing the torch over to the “young” year. With this particular obverse iconography, it can also be seen as the past consuming the future, or the older generation suppressing the future generation.

Speaking of Father Time, here is a very different (and somewhat more jolly) version of him on an ultra-modern Dutch art medal...



Designed by Corine Ton-Rekers, it presents Father Time on one side, heavily bearded and with disheveled hair all around his head, with a clock ticking away upon the reverse. Also very interestingly shaped, it is one of just 15 produced in 2011.

Sticking with the clock theme, here is one of the more popular types with collectors of American exnumia—C. D. Peacock's “Time is Money” token. What is unusual about this example, however, is that it is not struck in the usual copper composition, but rather in sterling silver...



Peacock is a Chicagoland jewelry store that dates back to the company's founding in 1837—a date commemorated on these “hard times”-style tokens from the turn of the century. Peacock commissioned them in celebration of the firm's 50th anniversary in 1897, with a few different styles (peacock with head right and inner date, head right and outer date, and head left) issued in the early years of the first decade of the 20th century.

The peacock serves as an obvious pun on the company's name, while the reverse features an iconic phrase (time is money), with the clock alluding to the many watches that the company would offer among their wares. While copper versions are able to be located rather easily, examples such as this in silver are almost never available given their paltry output—likely as gifts for the family or higher-ranking executives within the firm.

Returning back to New Year's, and an explanation of the image at the beginning of this newsletter, an annual tradition of ours for a number of years has been enjoying New Year's Eve as a night in while watching CNN's ceaselessly entertaining coverage as the evening counts down. Some guests during the Andy Cohen & Anderson Cooper special have become routine, such as John Mayer. During this year's coverage, he was lounging in a cat bar in Tokyo, with rather adorable kitties surrounding him the entire time. At the beginning of the segment, one is featured quite prominently with its tail raised and backside facing. The entire interview was hilarious...almost as hilarious as this picture of Marigold, one of our kitties, taken just a few days prior...



This also serves as the perfect intro for our next medal, that of another Dutch art medal:



Entitled "Willy the naughty cat," this hefty cast bronze medal from 1984 is part of the *Vereniging voor Penningkunst* (Association for Medallic Art) series, with the cat in question being a cat that the artist encountered during a stay at a home in America (*hence the use of English on the reverse, rather than Dutch*). In an interview, she mentioned that Willy was adored by the family, and was "intelligent, inspiring, and sometimes mischievous animal."

Sticking with the concept of naughty, we move on to the last medal previewed in this upload's newsletter...



A very rare modern British medal from the hand of Robert Elderton, this bronze example, entitled "Night of Armour/Knight of Amour," features a bit of word play thanks to the spellings of British English. On its obverse, a nearly nude woman attempts to remove a chastity belt, with unsuccessful keys littering the floor, her evening thus spent with protective yet provocative plating. Meanwhile, the reverse features a man clad in medieval armor and patiently waiting in a bed chamber, he serving as the paladin of passion.

For all of this upload's new items, please click [here](#) or on the banner art below. Also, for discounted items, please check out our New Year's Sale items [here](#) or on the dropdown menu located between our Inventory and Archive pages. We will be leaving for a vacation to New York starting tomorrow, so please note that orders may ship today, *time permitting*, or will be shipped upon our return on January 11th. We will be back again on January 15th with another mix of art and historical medals.



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